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The Congregational Way

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February, 1953

The Congregational Way

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TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

Archie W. Hook

Minister and Superintendent

A favorite uncle of mine, after whom I was named, used to remind me frequently when he observed my futile efforts to stretch the hours of the day: "You have all the time there is and no more." He seldom added anything further but I knew he was admonishing me to budget my time so that the most important would not be crowded out.

Lent is the period of the year when Christians generally give additional time and importance to prayer and meditation. Nothing is more essential. Francois Fenelon, living at the court of Louis XIV, was frequently confronted by courtiers who were frustrated because their numerous responsibilities left little or no time for meditation. What obligations should they slight? Fenelon replied to one: "I conclude that when God places us in certain positions which obligate us to take part in everything, as in the place where you are, the only thing is to live at peace without constantly quibbling about our secret motives. Let us go on in simplicity of heart. Most people when they wish to be converted or reformed, expect to fill their lives with especially difficult or unusual acts, far more than to purify their intentions. What He asks is a will which will no longer be divided between Him and any creature, a will pliant in His hands. One lives much as other people do, without affectation, without any show of austerity, in an easy sociable way, but with an unrelenting renunciation of all that does not moment by moment enter into God's plans, in short with a pure vision of God to which one sacrifices the irregular ij pulses of human nature."

Lent encourages us to take time for the holy and the sacred; to carefully evaluate our interests and activities; and to budget our time so that first things remain first.

Lord, I know not what I ought to ask of Thee: Thou only knowest what I need. I simply present myself before Thee, I open my heart to Thee. Smite me or heal me; depress me or raise me up; I yield myself to Thee. I would have no other desire than to accomplish Thy will.

(A prayer of Francois Fenelon)

News of the Churches

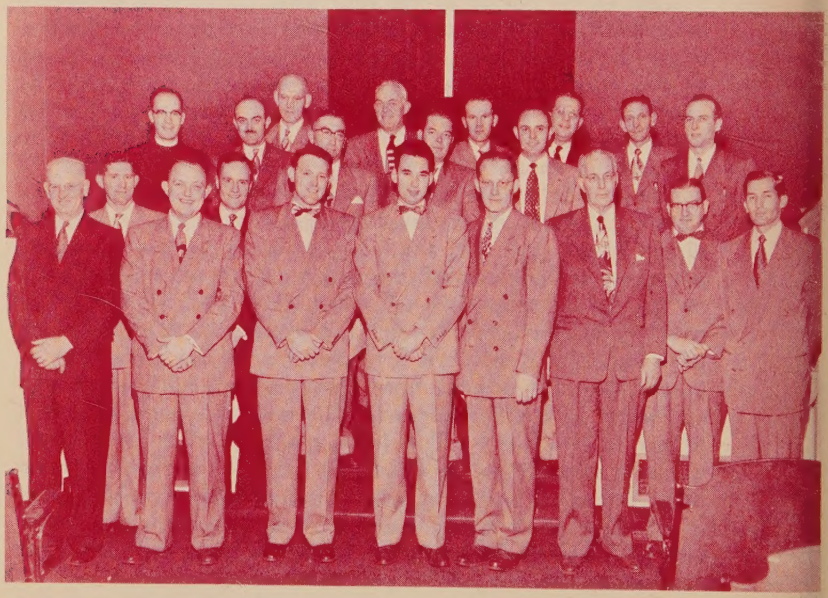
ANNIVERSARY CHURCHES

The January 5 issue of ADVANCE lists the following Washington churches as observing their 50th anniversary in 1953:

Beach, Lummi Island
Cathlamet
Maltby
Seattle, Beacon Hill
Tacoma, Plymouth

Seattle, KEYSTONE . . .

The Pastor's Class at Keystone church this year is scheduled for twelve sessions, with the first beginning on January 4, and they will continue until March 22nd. The class is held with the Junior High Department of the church, during the church school hour each Sunday. Rev. E. R. Hunt is the minister.



PASCO . . .

Some thirty members of the First Congregational Church had a very enlightening experience in November when they participated in the Visitation Evangelism Program under the direction of Rev. Elmer Freeman of Chicago. It was unanimously agreed to make this program an annual project not only for new membership but for a closer fellowship among church members.

The above picture is of the team members for the Every Member Canvass program which was conducted by Mr. LeRoy Eide. This also proved a successful experience and contributes to the progress of the church.

eattle, GREEN LAKE . . .

Stanley Anderson

Members and friends of Green ake Church rejoice in the coming is month of the Stanley E. Ander- on family to Seattle and to the inistry of this church. The Ander- ons come to our conference from onnecticut where Mr. Anderson as been serving as Assistant Min- ter of the First Congregational hurch, New Haven.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have joyed a variety of experiences in e parish ministry and bring to the reen Lake church special talents the fields of education and usic. Mr. Anderson served for five ars as Dean of the youth division the Northfield, Massachusetts eligious Education Conference; rved as chairman of the New aven Association Religious Edu- tion Committee; chairman of the Radio and TV Committee of the Connecticut Conference; served as leader of Missionary Workshops throughout the state; a frequent radio speaker and contributor to Advance, as well as other responsibilities.

Mrs. Anderson has had special training in religious education and social service work, and has served as director of children's choirs and chairman of the Music Committee of the New Haven Council of Church Women. She was also active in the Women's work of the Massachusetts conference.

Two children complete the family picture, Stephen, age 15, and Elaine, age 12.

To welcome the Andersons to Seattle, the members of Green Lake Church purchased a new parsonage.

Seattle, PLYMOUTH . . .

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Pruitt, Missionaries stationed at Davao, Mindanao, the Philippines, will receive a hand illuminated manuscript this month, wishing them a Happy New Year and containing the signatures of members of Plymouth of Seattle, their sponsoring church.

The manuscript sheets are decorated and lettered in old English. It was presented to the congregation for the purpose by Mr. and Mrs. Ross George. There is a greeting on the first page and a phrase from The Lord's Prayer at the top of each signature filled sheet that follows. The greeting reads: "Our thoughts, our love, our prayers unite with yours in asking God to give you the patience, the understanding, the power to achieve your great mission. Your friends in Plymouth Church."

The Pruitts are serving as missionaries with The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Our Missionary Representatives Report

FROM AFRICA . . . .

Rev. and Mrs. Larry Henderson, formerly of Aberdeen, write that 1952 has been an important year in the life of the Lobito Mission, Angola, Africa, of the Washington Congregational Conference. We are able to visit and give you a more personal account of what we have been doing as your missionary representatives. We are doubly grateful for the opportunity which is ours:

1. to represent a vigorous Christian fellowship which is doing a significant job in many communities in the States of Washington and Idaho.
2. to be sent to an area where God is using our joint efforts to accomplish His will.

1952, and our absence from Lobito gave us an opportunity to see our work, and the whole Christian enterprise in Africa in a larger perspective. During that time the Christian work in Lobito lost some of its capable young leaders because of their inability to live up to that high standard required of Christian workers, and we shall endeavor in the months ahead to remember that all our myriad tasks are secondary to the work of God who can basically transform men and women and give them a new life in Christ. The small Portuguese speaking group continued its services in spite of lack of leadership, and they made a substantial contribution toward the construction of a chapel in Lobito. We shall strive to give every aid and encouragement that this new work may become firmly rooted in the European community of Lobito.

With mixed feelings we anticipate a happy Christmas season. To us it is very humbling to realize that if Jesus the Christ were born this year in Lobito, it would not be in our nice home, or in our neighborhood, but in the native section of town. We have so romanticised the stable that we lose the force of God's judgement upon wealth and power. "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are."

FROM THE PHILIPPINES . . . .

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Pruitt, formerly of Anacortes, now at Cotabato, Midsayap, write: "Yesterday we began our language study. We are favored with three charming teachers and likely to acquire a fourth. We are guinea pigs in the Philippines, being the only first term missionaries to have specific language training under these favorable conditions. We are to have five hours of study each day—a painfully slow process, but the language will come gradually we know.

Christmas is a time of fiestas in the Philippines; so it will be a real celebration here. We feel the strength of your prayers and concern for us. Happily it is such that knows no barriers of land or water. Besides Plymouth Church, Seattle, we have the church in Scituate, Mass., the Southington, Conn. church, and one at Rochester, Michigan, as our sponsors.

OM ENGLAND . . . .

tev. and Mrs. Donald Lamka, formerly of Tacoma, Washington, are serving ler the auspicies of the International Congregational Council a parish Saltley, Birmingham, England. In giving the purpose of their work in s great industrial center, the Lamkas write:

"The principles involved which re led us here are simple. We are umenical Christians from the word indeed, for us there is no other d of Christianity than this. There the obvious disadvantage in this t we are the restless folk who hard for church administrators deal with. But it is a restlessss not of dissatisfaction, but ner of a deep love of and faith the Church, and a desire to do at little we can to help it fulfill mission of Divine incarnation the life of the world: to be "the who hold the world together.' we have moved among the Chris-n folk of western Europe, and ecially the youth, we have been eply impressed by the Christian e which permeates their basic itudes to all others. Yet we have en appalled by the fact that this ristian love has not been suffiitly strong to prevent the major gedies of the wars we now accept everyday headlines. We believe the 18th and 19th century vision the task of the world mission of church: evangelism of 'pagan' ds. But we are also convinced t the Church must really come grips with what is surely the nary world-mission of the 20th tury church: to bring the Chris-n gospel to bear on every aspect our international and inter-church . Foundations must be kept so n that the Christian fellowship ALLY is one of persons who will ow NO barriers whatever to vio-e the Love of God which unites n, whether it be race, creed, nomics, or national patriotism.

"To us the desparate need of our times is in the field of international relations, that we may learn to understand and trust one another. We are naively Christian enough to believe firmly that there is no hope of this happening except through the instrumentation of the Christian Church and what is can accomplish along these lines. We are also firm in our belief that the real need is at the grass roots. Short term exchanges in the summer, or student exchanges, have proved valuable all out of proportion to their cost; would not a longer term living together prove still more fruitful? That is what we are seeking to find out, and we have every reason to believe that our mission of international fellowship will prove fruitful."

UNITED NATIONS MATERIALS

Questions are today being raised about the value of the United Nations. Some persons and groups go so far as to advocate that the United States resign from the international organization. Attacks are also being made on UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The draft Covenants on Human Rights (based upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) are also meeting with determined opposition. Just what are the criticisms? What are the facts? The International Relations Department of the Council for Social Action has prepared three packets of materials, one on each of the above subjects. These materials give the pro and con arguments. The packets are available at 50 cents each, or all three for one dollar. Place your order with Rev. Herman F. Reissig, Council for Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10.

TRAVELING SEMINARS

Opportunities for persons who want to gain first-hand information about religious, economic, social and political conditions at home and abroad, as well as enjoy a vacation experience are offered by our various boards and agencies through their traveling seminars.

Those offered in 1953 include a trip to Hawaii, Japan, and the Philippines from March 10—April 9; tours to the southern schools from April 6—22 and April 7—22; a Human Rights tour in the U.S.A. from June 15—July 2; and the European tour from June 23—August 12.

Additional information concerning cost and details of tours can be secured from the conference office.

ANNUAL PASTORS CONVOCATION

The third Pastors Convocati under the sponsorship of the Was ington Northern Idaho Council Churches will be held February 23 25, at the First Presbyterian Churc Spokane, Washington. The ther will be, "Christ's Call to Missi and Unity." Sessions will beg with dinner on the 23rd and contin to the 25th.

The convocation will feature wo ship, lectures, seminars, music a fellowship. Speakers and leade will include Dr. Paul S. Wrigh First Presbyterian Church, Portlan Oregon; The Rev. Norman Goodal London, England, of the Internatio al Missionary Council; Dr. Charl W. Ranson, New York, General Se retary of the International Missio ary Council; The Rev. Dean Collins, Los Angeles, Western Sup visor of Migrant Work for the Natio al Council; Dr. E. J. Aschenbrenn of St. Paul's Methodist Churc Spokane; and Professor Leona Martin, Whitworth College.

The Rev. W. Carl Calhoun First Congregational Church, Be lingham, is serving as chairman the Program Committee.

The annual meeting of the Coun of Churches will be held in Spoka at the First Presbyterian Church Monday, February 23.

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

February 8 will be the 31st annual observance of Race Relations Sunday. We print in part the message of the National Council of Churches for this day, prepared by Dr. O. Frederick Nolde of Philadelphia, Pa.

The whole family in heaven and earth is named after the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a fundamental Christian belief. However, there is a gap between our conviction and our practice. Dangerous cleavages divide our human family. From the resulting suspicions and dissensions, catastrophe could strike with lightning suddenness. Relief from the threats which now beset mankind can be found only as the world-wide community becomes an effective reality, one family embracing all nations and peoples. Christians must speed the process of bridging the gap between conviction and practice.

An uneasy conscience has pricked our complacency where practice has failed to reflect conviction. However, we have found some meager satisfaction in the knowledge that free men, by processes of freedom, continue to seek for everyone the full enjoyment of human rights. Affirmative actions have marked the past ten years of our history as significant in improved race relations and must be pressed with increasing vigor. That is important, but it is not enough. We must at this very moment, give tangible evidence of our unwavering commitment to do away with discrimination and segregation. Two opportunities to do this lie immediately before us.

A sense of neighborliness that is unaffected by race, color or national origin will recognize that all men are equally entitled to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. He who cultivates this attitude toward his neighbor will understand the fuller meaning of the diving injunction "Go and do thou likewise." Attitudes may speak effectively even where problems cannot be solved promptly.

A cooperative attack upon discrimination and segregation offers opportunity for healthy acknowledgment of equality in the face of unequal treatment. Concerted planning and action by both parties may soften the sting of past injustices and can awake mutual understanding and sympathy in solving tough problems. We must move forward as men of equality and as partners in a common cause.

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Mrs. Theron A. Zimmerman,
Social Action Secretary

"O Brother Man, fold to thy heart thy brother—" should be our dominant emotion as Christians at times, of course. But we should make every effort through our various church groups to re-emphasize Brotherhood during February. Since it has become such a nation-wide observance, we can start where the billboards and bus posters leave off, and really become specific in helping people know WHO their brother is, WHERE he is, and how to BE a brother to him.

Your pastor should have received his Race Relations Packet by now from Galen Weaver of the Race Relations Department of the Council for Social Action. Why not ask him what your women can do to help him in this observance in February? He may have some material your women's group can use, too. Meeting with other racial and religious groups can be very rewarding, if well planned.

Your material on HOME MISSIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS fits right in here—if it's neatly tucked away in your packet, drag it out and give it air. Then give it life by using it. See SOCIAL ACTION MATERIALS on page 6 of January, CONGREGATIONAL WAY for the latest additional material. We of C.S.A. a especially excited about the ne CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP progra Just have your pastor of Soci Action chairman write for it FRE and your local group can reall participate in studying current legi lation before Congress. Your loc opinions will then be sent back t our C.S.A. office in Washington an compiled so that legislators wi know what Congregationalists ar thinking about this and that. Jus now the "hot" issue is the propose revision of the McCarran Immigratio Act which has been getting so muc publicity.

Have you used the filmstrip "Re birth in Roxbury" yet? A perfec idea for Brotherhood Month—or any month. It really spells out wha brotherhood means in the loca church. Then, after you see it, dare you to try to be satisfied with an all-Caucasian church ever after Then, be sure to use the film on Human Rights, "These Rights We Hold," which, although it's interdenominational, actually shows the work of our East Harlem Parish in New York City. It's truly thrilling, cost is $8, available from Audio Visual Center, Seattle.

VENTURE OF FELLOWSHIP

e Lakeview Community Con-
tional Church is engaged in an
to bring its program to the
of securing full-time minis-
leadership. To strengthen
efforts various resources of
onference fellowship have been
available to them.

Rex Jordan, an active member
he Keystone Church, Seattle,
conducted the Sunday worship
ces for the past two months.
Christine Skelton has worked
the church school, and Mr.
y Eide recently conducted an
Member Canvass for the
.

haps one of the most pleasant
riences was the Community
y, for there was evidence of
fellowship. Members of First
regational Church, Tacoma;
outh Church, Tacoma; Key-
e Church, Seattle; Olivet, Seat-
and of Pilgrim Club, University
ch, came to assist with the
y. Pictures on this page show
thing of this experience.

Some members of the Lakeview planning committee

lers enjoy refreshments after experience

Instructions before making calls

WESTERN PASTOR'S SCHOOL

The annual Western Pastors School will be held this year from July 8—August 5, at LaForet, Colorado. This school is sponsored by the Board of Home Missions; applications are made through the Conference Office.

Leaders for this year will include Dr. Stanley U. North as dean. Dr. Wilhelm Pauck of Union Seminary, New York, for theology; Dr. Allen Wehrli of Eden Seminary, Webster Grove, Mo., for Old Testament; Dr. Kendrick Grobel of the Vanderbilt School of Religion for New Testament.

The course in worship is to be given by Rev. Vernon Loescher of Hinsdale, Illinois; and the course in the care of the parish will be given by Rev. Richard Hangen of Long Beach, California. Miss Grace Storms will be the leader for the religious education emphasis, while Rev. Alexander B. Ferguson will do the visual education work. Mr. and Mrs. James Waery will be in charge of music, and Dr. Henry Smith Leiper will represent the work of The Missions Council.

The annual conference of Pilgrim Fellowship will be held April 17, 18, and 19, at the First Congregational Church, Tacoma. Each local group is entitled to four official representatives plus an additional one for each ten members beyond the first ten. There is no limit on the non-voting delegates. Bruce Forbes of the Alki Church is president and will preside at the sessions of the conference.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The Christians of America will cooperate again this year in a great program of aid for the relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of needy areas of the world. March 8 will climax the efforts when many churches will take special offerings for this work. The world still has millions of refugees and they desperately need our Christian ministrations. A gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing, as a sacrificial Lenten offering, will be directed to Korean relief, Germany, the Near East, Greece, and India. This is a part of Our Christian World Mission.

* * *

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith In Action, the second program booklet for Youth Fellowship Groups, is now available from The Pilgrim Press, $1.00 a copy. Provices program material from fifteen to twenty weeks, includes material for discussion, worship and activities. The topics are planned in general for use during the spring and summer, but are usable in any order and at any time.

Two features are outstanding in this issue: "The Bible Base"—and "The Point; Hit It." Each group should have several copies for the best results.

SERVICE PROJECTS FOR GROUPS

From all over the world in recent months have come requests for Bibles and Bible-teaching materials. These requests are mounting up. They come from Africa, India, Japan—wherever our representatives are at work. Missionaries in little schools, in hospitals, in the outposts of the world are asking for materials of all sorts, but chiefly for Bibles. Your groups, church school and youth groups, can give valuable aid to these missionaries.

Any group desiring to do something specific about this need, should write to Children's Friendly Service, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., and request a list of things needed. If the group is interested in a particular country, please specify Africa, India, Japan, etc.

For churches using The Pilgrim Series curriculum this particular suggestion is the all-church project. It is also the Project of the Month for January and February. No matter what materials you are using, if you want to have specific projects, address your request to these Friendly Service departments. Women's Fellowship groups also have a Friendly Service department, and quota for local churches can be secured from the various Association Directors.

* * *

CLOTHING APPEAL

Literally thousands of refugees will die from exposure this winter unless Americans redouble their efforts to find garments for the needy.

Clothing requirements for all areas stress heavy, warm garments. Men's clothing—trousers, coats, sweaters, socks and shoes—is especially needed. Only shoes in good repair should be sent.

In women's clothing, large sizes are particularly desirable. No high-heeled shoes or evening clothes can be used. Children's garments—snowsuits, overalls, underwear, sturdy shoes and boots—are urgently needed, as are layettes for newborn babies. Blankets, bed linen, and towels are in great demand in all areas.

Facts From the Field, January

Pictured is the Junior Choir of the First Congregational Church, Pasc making their debut at the annual senior choir concert and sporting ne robes. The choir has a regular attendance of twenty, and they are plannin to sing for the regular services once a month. Mr. George K. Epley is th director; Paul Sutley, minister.

The Fellowship of Prayer

LENTEN SEASON 1953

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